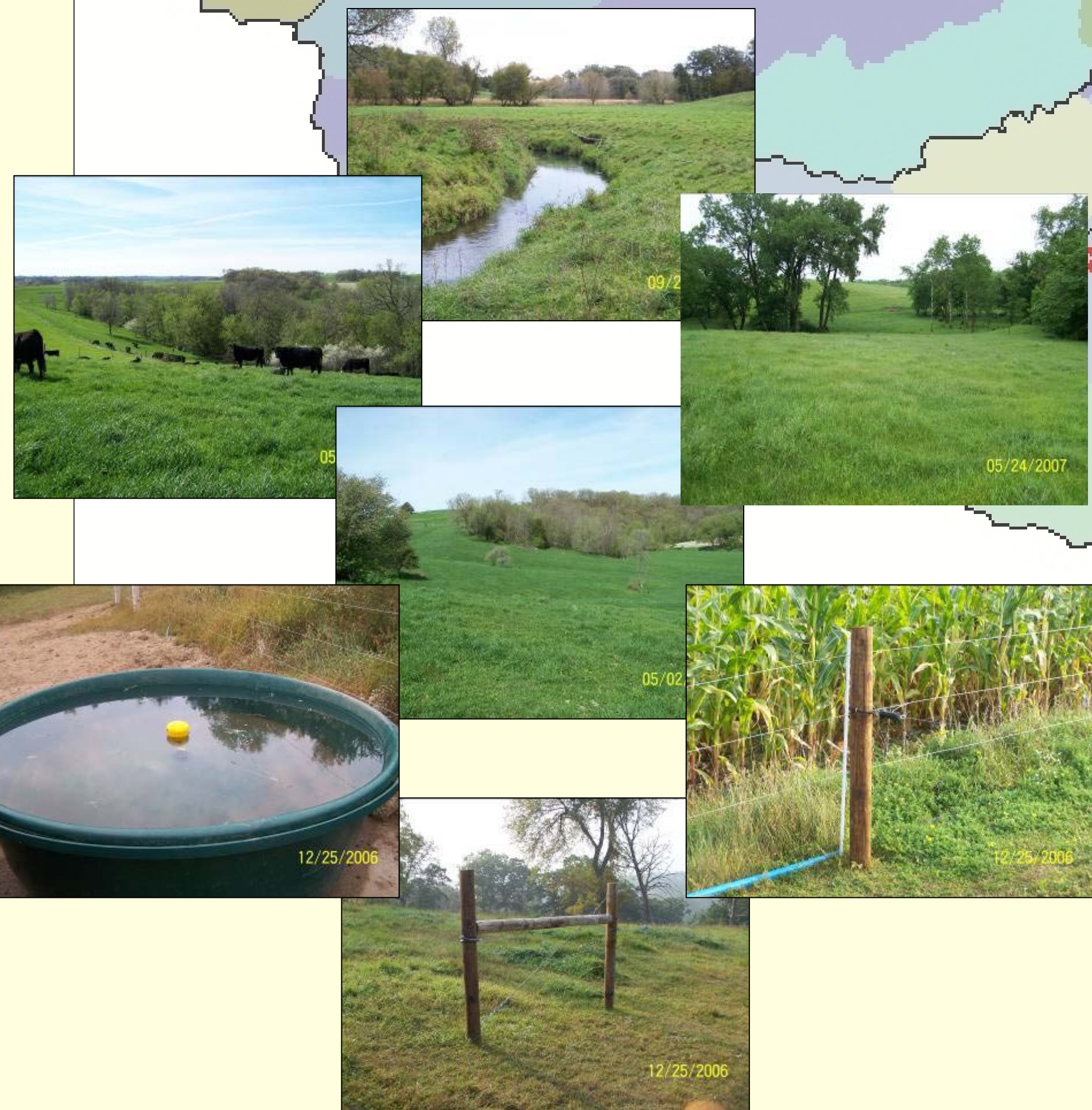
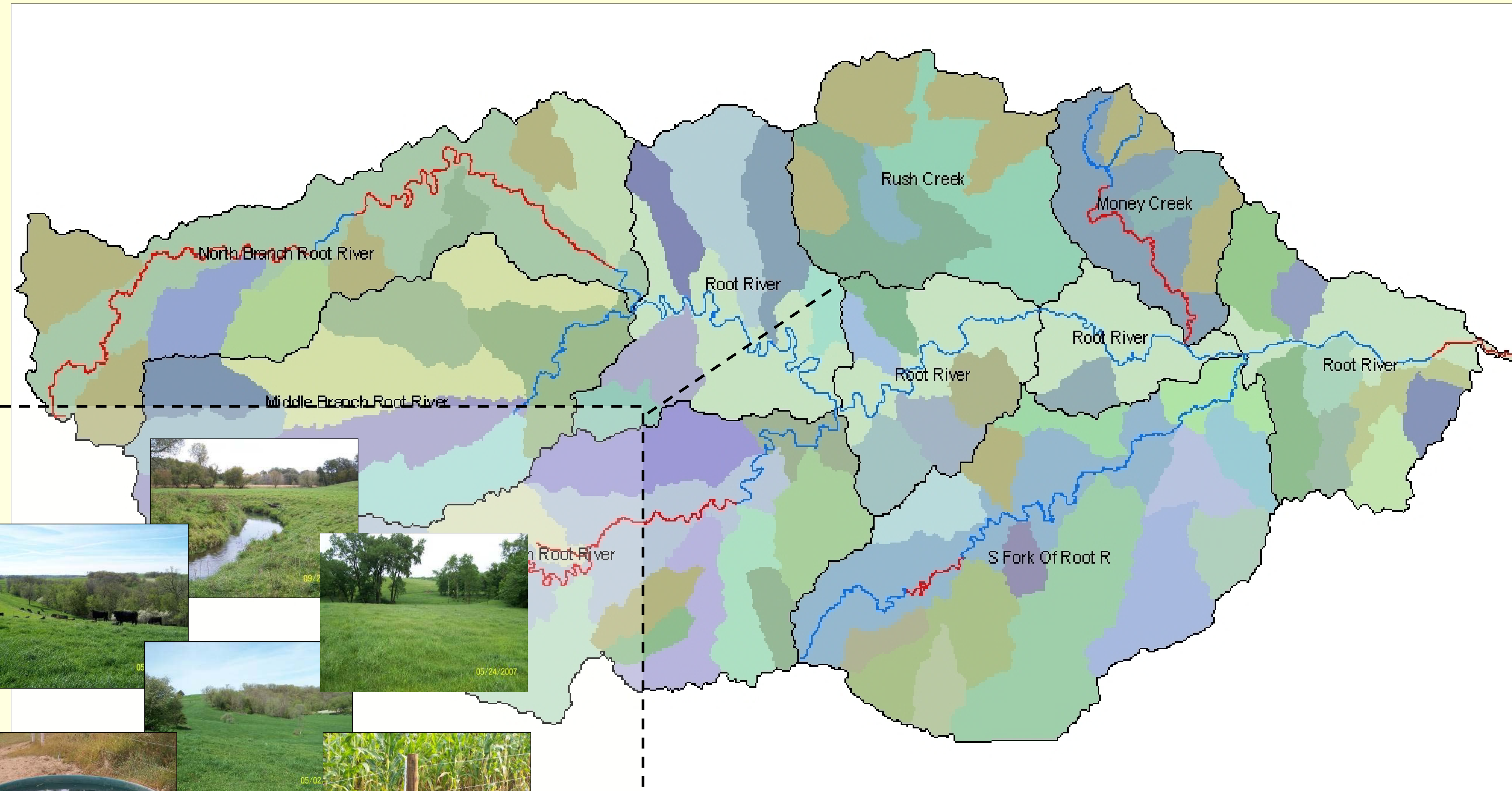


PROTECTING SENSITIVE AREAS AND PRODUCTIVE LANDS THROUGH PRESCRIBED GRAZING WITHIN THE ROOT RIVER WATERSHED



The Fillmore and Winona County Soil and Water District and Natural Resources Conservation Services have worked in a partnering effort to provide technical and financial assistance to clients to influence the adoption of Rotational Grazing Systems. These systems have helped to improve soil and water resources in the Root River Watershed. Through state and federal cost-share programs, Fillmore, Winona, Houston and Olmsted Counties has allocated approximately \$ 861,153 to agricultural producers from 2003-2010. The District and NRCS currently has 36 active contracts and has implemented numerous practices through the Environment Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and State Cost share programs. The success of the following programs can be measured by the implementation of 356,489 feet of fence, and 220,351 feet of pipeline on 3,215 acres of pasture land. Other practices being implemented through cost share are Heavy Usage Protection for cattle lanes and stationary water tanks to help prevent soil erosion.